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Mr. Michael Friedman, Lead Deputy Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, Md. 20857

NEW 13, 99
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Dear Mr. Friedman,

The rapidity with which genetic engineering is moving into U.S. agriculture, and the apparent **promotion** of the practice by the three Federal Agencies which are supposed to **regulate** crops **and** foods is a matter of grave concern to me. **It is** apparent that citizens are being left out of this entire process. Once again corporate **"science"** is using massive persuasion techniques to sell us a product and a process. The claim **is** made that genetic engineering (GE) of our food is not only harmless but that it is the answer to feeding burgeoning **human** populations around the world.

There is no evidence to support any of these claims. Actually, none of the GE crops has any of the characteristics required to produce more food. In fact, they require special soils, huge machinery, increased use of chemicals. Using **Monsanto** as an example, GE **crops** are deliberately designed to tolerate massive application of Monsanto's herbicide Roundup. Roundup is **one** of the corporation's biggest money makers.

Great monopolies are being created in this entire process; monopolies on primary foods, in the production of terminator (one season only) seeds, in a forced market for Roundup use. Farmers will be dependent upon a single supplier for seeds. Organic **farmers** could be squeezed out of this picture.

The risks in genetic engineering of foods are not known. The policies of the USDA, FDA, and EPA are all **complicit** in establishing policies which offer no protection whatsoever to--people or the environment. No records are required to indicate which farms and companies are producing GE foods. No labeling of crops and products is required. We consumers are deprived of making informed choice when purchasing **food**. Under these conditions who will even know about or be able to trace health effects from consumption of these foods, or from the gross contamination of soils caused by extensive single herbicidal use?

I am writing to protest the existing and planned monopolistic control of food production, over farmers and agricultural practices; specifically over the foods I may be eating or may be forced to eat. I protest the environmental threats to the soil and the earth, which can only be translated into threats to human health.

At the very least, a moratorium on approvals and renewals of GE crops by your agency should be immediately instituted and a system of labeling to identify GE foods should be established. This could be a first step in restoring to us the civil rights which are being confiscated by corporate powers.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. A reply would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Marguerite Ingalsbe

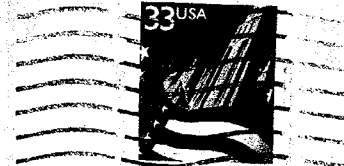
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